

memorandum

DATE: April 30, 2014

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance Memorandum

TO: Cecilia Brown
Project Manager – KEWM-4

Proposed Action: Structure and Debris Removal from Howes and Bird's Eye View Habitat Conservation Properties

Fish and Wildlife Project No.: 1991-019-01 63483

Categorical Exclusion Applied (from Subpart D, 10 C.F.R. Part 1021): B1.23 Demolition and Disposal of Buildings.

Location: ~30 miles NE of Missoula, Sanders County, Montana

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA)

Description of the Proposed Action: BPA is proposing to fund the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes to remove structures, equipment, and trash from two properties in Sanders County, Montana. The properties are managed by the Tribes for habitat conservation which helps BPA's ongoing efforts to mitigate impacts to fish and wildlife from construction and operation of the Federal Columbia River Power System. The structure and debris removal would help restore the properties for wildlife habitat.

On the Howes property, workers would remove a 10 foot x 10 foot well pumphouse that is less than twenty years old and haul it away to the landfill. On the Bird's Eye View property, workers would remove a small, two-story cabin, a four-bay garage and a small wood outbuilding which were built in the 1990s. Workers will dismantle the buildings and salvage whatever materials from them that they can. The materials that remain that have no utility will be piled and burned in place. Workers would use existing dirt roads and previously disturbed areas to access the structures, and the activities would not involve ground disturbance.

Findings: BPA has determined that the proposed action complies with Section 1021.410 and Appendix B of Subpart D of the Department of Energy's (DOE) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Regulations (57 FR 15144, Apr. 24, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 36221-36243, July 9, 1996; 61 FR 64608, Dec. 6, 1996, 76 FR 63764, Nov. 14, 2011). The proposed action does not present any extraordinary circumstances that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal. The proposal is not connected [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(1)] to other actions with potentially significant impacts, has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion, is not related to other proposed actions with cumulatively significant impacts [40 C.F.R. 1508.25(a)(2)], and is not precluded by 40 C.F.R. 1506.1 or

10 C.F.R. 1021.211. Moreover, the proposed action would not (i) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, (ii) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, (iii) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that pre-exist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases, (iv) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, or (v) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements.

This proposed action meets the requirements for the Categorical Exclusion referenced above. We therefore determine that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

/s/ Kurt Unger
Kurt Unger
Environmental Protection Specialist

Concur:

/s/ Stacy Mason
Stacy Mason
NEPA Compliance Officer

Date: *April 30, 2014*

Attachment(s):
Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Environmental Checklist for Categorical Exclusions

Name of Proposed Project: Structure and Debris Removal from Howes and Bird's Eye View Properties

Work Order #: 188231

This project does not have the potential to cause significant impacts on the following environmentally sensitive resources. See 10 CFR 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B for complete descriptions of the resources. This checklist is to be used as a summary – further discussion may be included in the Categorical Exclusion Memorandum.

Environmental Resources	No Potential for Significance	No Potential, with Conditions (describe)
1. Historic Properties and Cultural Resources No effect, no ground disturbance would occur and no structures are over 50 years old.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. T & E Species, or their habitat(s) Although properties within Canadian Lynx critical habitat and Grizzly Bear recovery zone, discussion with MT USFWS's fish and wildlife biologist reveals no effect due to location (species not likely in the area) and timing restrictions. Project will help improve habitat.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Floodplains or wetlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Areas of special designation See #2.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Health & safety No effect.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Prime or unique farmlands None present	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Special sources of water None present.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Other (describe) N/A	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signed: /s/ Kurt Unger

Date: April 30, 2014